

## TOBACCO USE

A number of items on the *Idaho Substance Use and School Climate Survey* addressed student use of tobacco. Students were asked about their lifetime and recent history of smoking tobacco and using smokeless tobacco.

Overall, while the sixth-grade students' reported smoking has remained stable from 2002, it has declined when compared to the first administration of the survey in 1996. Twelfth-grade students in Idaho reported smoking less in the year 2004 than in 2002, 2000, 1998, and 1996. When compared to 1996, sixth-, eighth-, 10th, and 12th-grade students in Idaho reported smoking less in 2004. While the percentage of students who smoke nationwide also dropped in 2004, students in Idaho continued to be less likely than students in other parts of the country to smoke.

### Lifetime Prevalence

Table T1 reports the percentage of students reporting any lifetime use of tobacco, from a one-time experiment to daily use. It also compares this information to data from the 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Idaho surveys. This same information is presented in chart format in Figure T1. (Missing bars indicate that no data were collected for that particular grade in that year.)

**Table T1**  
**Percentage of Idaho Students Who Have Ever Used Smoking Tobacco, 1996-2004**

Grade	Idaho 1996		Idaho 1998		Idaho 2000		Idaho 2002		Idaho 2004		Idaho Change Since First Survey
	%	Margin of Error	%	Margin of Error	%	Margin of Error	%	Margin of Error	%	Margin of Error	
Grade 6	8.0	± 1.4	5.2	± 0.8	2.9	± 1.4	3.2	± 0.7	3.7	± 0.5	-4.3
Grade 8	28.7	± 2.2	21.2	± 2.4	17.3	± 5.4	12.3	± 2.0	12.2	± 0.7	-16.5
Grade 10	--	--	40.6	± 5.0	30.9	± 3.0	24.9	± 3.5	23.7	± 1.6	-16.9
Grade 12	48.1	± 3.6	42.0	± 4.1	43.6	± 5.5	33.7	± 2.2	29.7	± 1.8	-18.4

The percentage of students who reported having smoked continued to increase with each subsequent grade, until it stabilized at 12th-grade at about 29.7 percent of all students. Very few sixth-grade students (3.7%) reported having ever tried smoking. By eighth grade, this percentage increased substantially to 12.2 percent.

At all grade levels that were surveyed in more than one year, the percentage of students reporting that they had ever smoked tobacco decreased compared to the first year students were surveyed. Among sixth-graders, however, there was a slight *increase* in smoking prevalence in 2004 compared to 2002. However, this increase was within the margin of error. This suggests that the prevalence of smoking among sixth-grade students probably has changed little since 2002. Sixth-grade prevalence in 2004 was still below that reported in 1996. Among eighth-, 10th-, and 12th-grade students, there appears to have been a real reduction in the percentage of students using smoking tobacco.

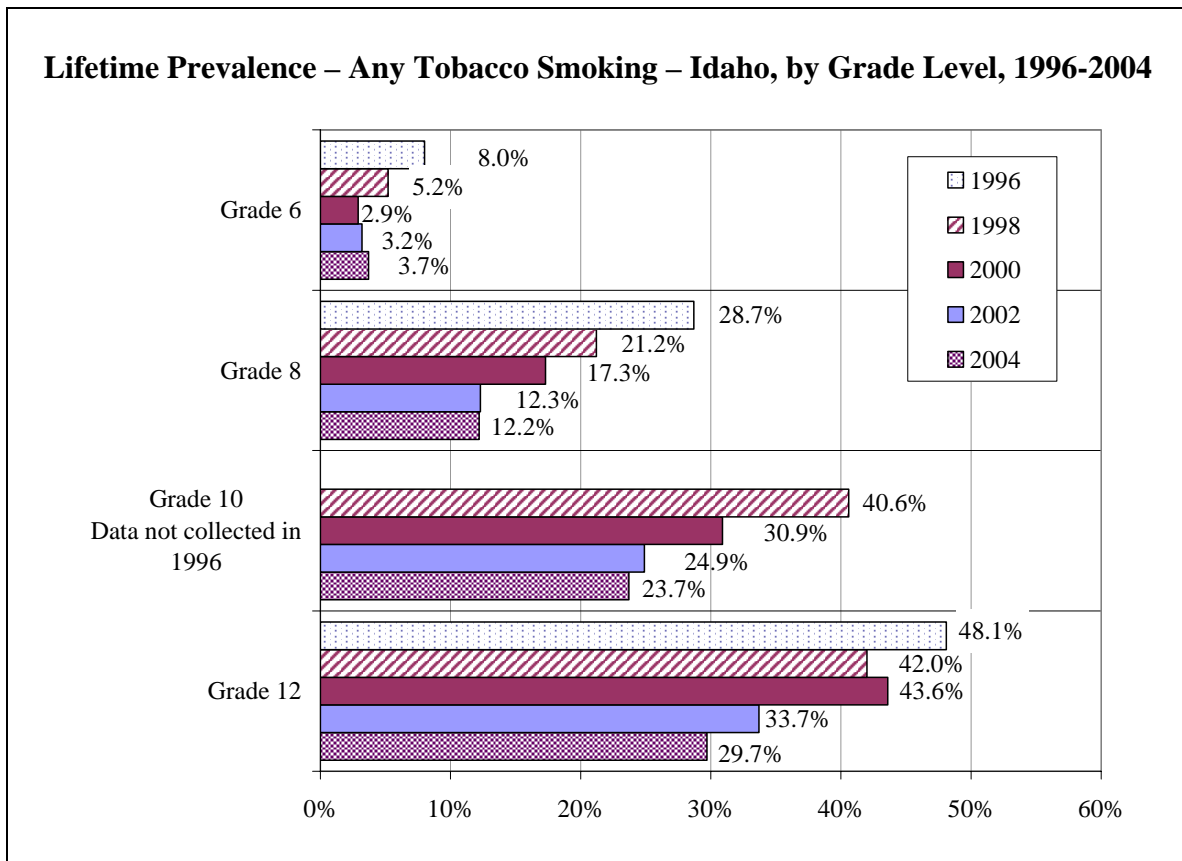


Figure T1

Among younger students (grades six and eight), there was almost no difference between boys and girls in the reported use of smoking tobacco. Among 10th-grade students, boys were slightly more likely than girls to have tried smoking; but among 12th-grade students, girls appeared to be somewhat more likely than boys both to have tried smoking and to smoke on a daily basis.

Nationally, student use of tobacco declined in the year 2004 compared to the preceding five years (Johnston, et. al., 2004). Even with the national decline, students in Idaho reported lower levels of tobacco use than students in the national sample did. This is consistent with results reported from the 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002 *Idaho Substance Use and School Climate Surveys*, as Table T2 illustrates. (National data is available only for grades eight, 10 and 12).

**Table T2**  
**Percentage of Students Who Have Ever Used Smoking Tobacco,**  
**Idaho and Nationwide, 1996-2004**

Grade	1996		1998		2000		2002		2004		Idaho Change Since First Survey
	National	Idaho	National	Idaho	National	Idaho	National	Idaho	National	Idaho	
Grade 6	--	8.0	--	5.2	--	2.9	--	3.2	--	3.7	-4.3
Grade 8	49.2	28.7	45.7	21.2	40.5	17.3	31.4	12.3	27.9	12.2	-16.5
Grade 10	61.2	--	57.7	40.6	55.1	30.9	47.4	24.9	40.7	23.7	-16.9
Grade 12	63.5	48.1	65.3	42.0	62.5	43.6	57.2	33.7	52.8	29.7	-18.4

The rates of decline in smoking for eighth-, 10th-, and 12th-grade students are also presented in individual charts (Figures T2, T3, and T4, respectively). The prevalence rates for smoking among students nationwide appear on the same chart, allowing a comparison of trends in Idaho and across the nation.

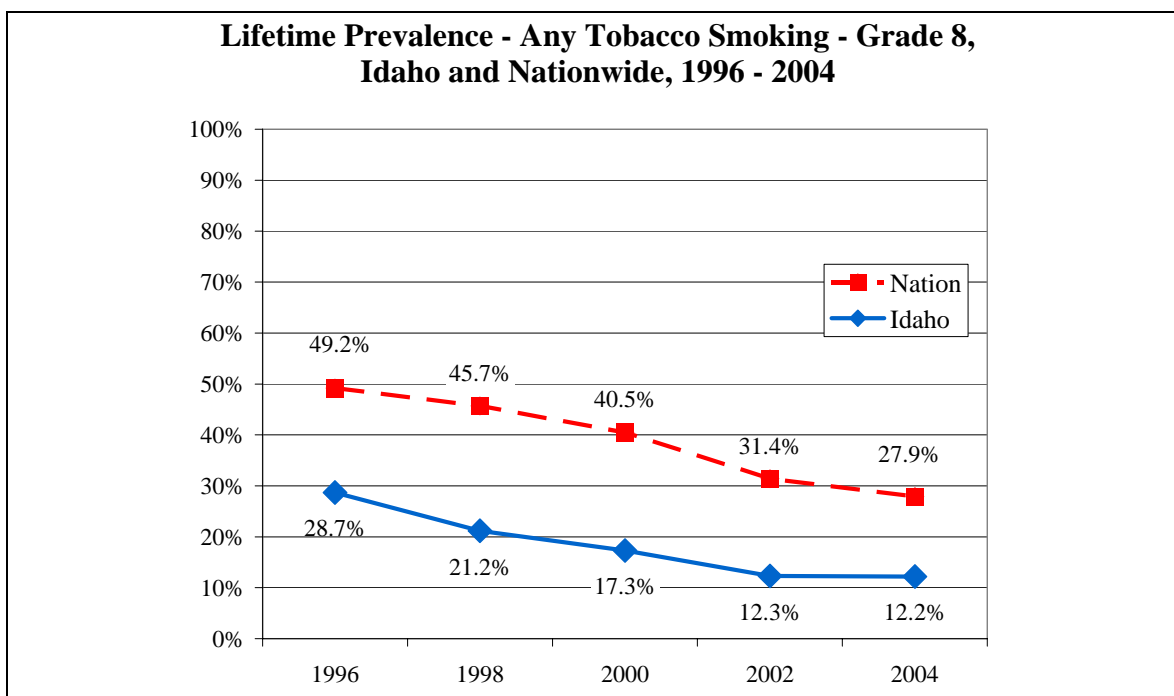


Figure T2

Figure T2, for example, shows that eighth-grade students reduced their lifetime prevalence of smoking both in Idaho and nationwide, even though they had already started at a much lower rate. For 10th-graders, there were no Idaho data from 1996, but the rate of the level of smoking prevalence in 2004 (23.7%) was substantially less than among 10th-graders nationally (40.7%) (Figure T3).

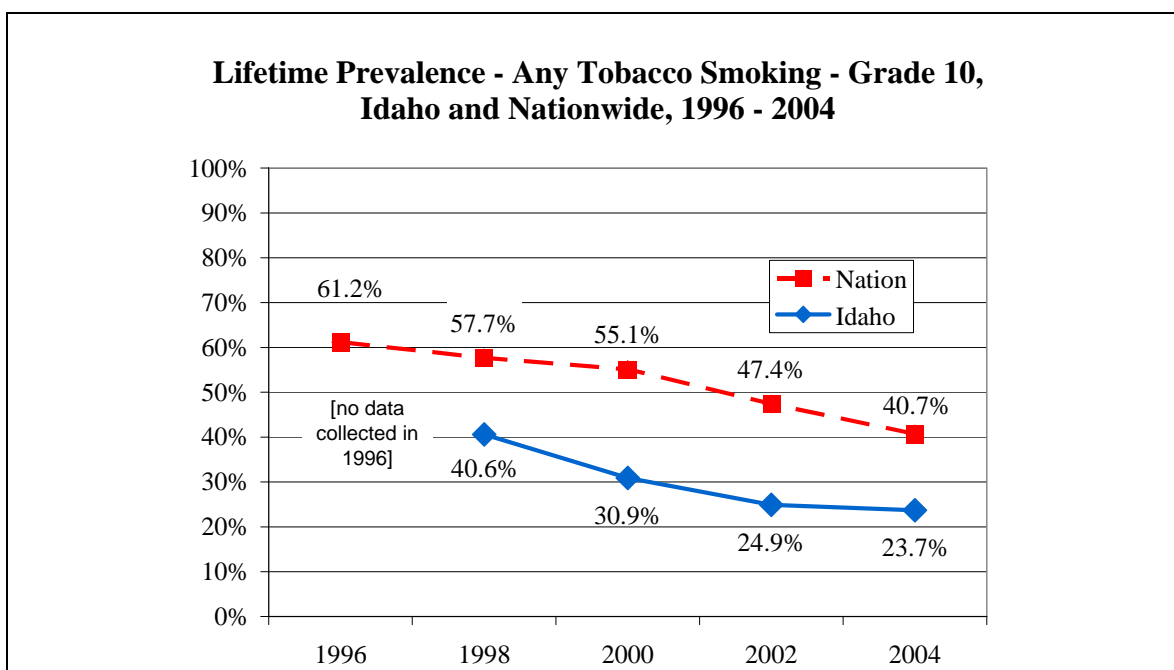


Figure T3

**Lifetime Prevalence - Any Tobacco Smoking - Grade 12,  
Idaho and Nationwide, 1996 - 2004**

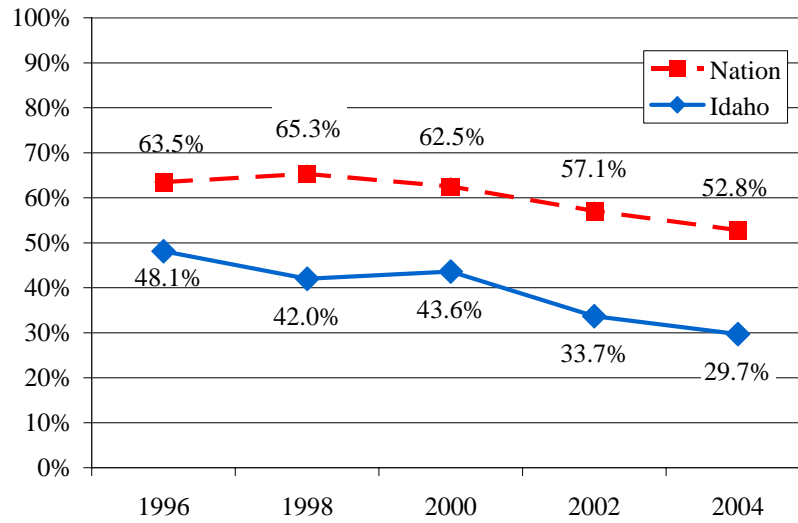


Figure T4

Figure T4 reveals that the reduction of smoking among high school seniors was mirrored among seniors in the national study. In all three grades, *Idaho students continued to report substantially lower use of smoking tobacco than their peers nationwide.*

### **Lifetime Prevalence of Any Tobacco Smoking, by Ethnicity**

Figure T5 illustrates the lifetime prevalence of smoking by grade and ethnicity (as well as the actual number of students reporting at each level). Overall, the use of smoking tobacco increases by grade. By 12th grade, 55.2 percent of African Americans had tried smoking tobacco; Native Americans (40.5%), Hispanics (30.6%), and Caucasians (29.2%) reported similar lifetime prevalence for smoking tobacco use; and Asians (16.8%) had the lowest lifetime prevalence of smoking tobacco use. Since Caucasians comprised the majority of the sample (80.7 percent), caution should be used in the interpretation of the data. The fact that the sampling of students reflects the population pattern speaks to the validity of the survey. But because of the small number of minority students in Idaho, just a few students in a particular minority group may be represented in the chart as a big percentage. However, that percentage does not mean that there are a huge *number* of minority students participating in the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

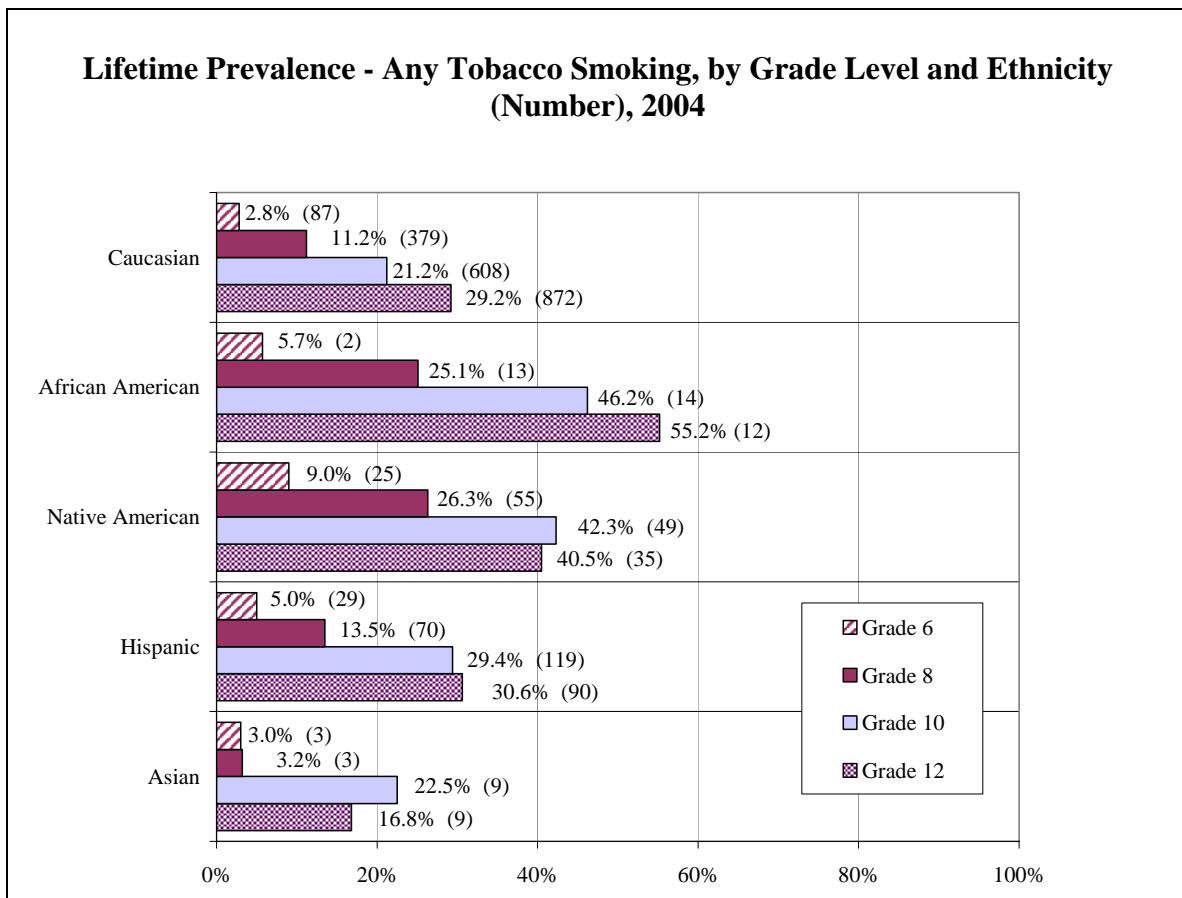


Figure T5

Lifetime use of smokeless tobacco also dropped compared to earlier years. Table T3 summarizes survey data on student use of smokeless tobacco by grade level. At all grade levels with national data available, *Idaho students were less likely to report use of smokeless tobacco than were their counterparts nationwide.*

**Table T3**  
**Percentage of Students Who Have Ever Used Smokeless Tobacco,**  
**Idaho and Nationwide, 1996-2004**

Grade	1996		1998		2000		2002		2004		Idaho Change Since First Survey
	National	Idaho	National	Idaho	National	Idaho	National	Idaho	National	Idaho	
Grade 6	--	3.3	--	1.8	--	2.1	--	1.0	--	1.5	-1.8
Grade 8	20.4	8.8	15.0	5.5	12.8	4.7	11.2	5.0	11.0	4.2	-4.6
Grade 10	27.4	--	22.7	13.3	19.1	11.3	16.9	8.0	13.8	9.9	-3.4
Grade 12	29.8	21.5	26.2	17.2	23.1	16.1	18.3	15.0	16.7	12.8	-4.4

Male students were much more likely to try smokeless tobacco than were female students, and virtually all students who reported using smokeless tobacco on a daily basis were male.

## Current Levels of Tobacco Use

Students were asked not only if they had ever used tobacco, but also *how often* they used it. This information helps to explain the overall decline in smoking reported above, as it distinguishes between occasional and regular users of smoking tobacco.

In 2002, declines in the overall percentage of students who reported using smoking tobacco were due primarily to lower rates of experimental or occasional use (referred to as “some” use) in Table T4. Table T4 demonstrates that this explanation continues to hold in 2004 for eighth-, 10th-, and 12th-grade students. For 12th-grade students, however, the reduction in smoking overall is most attributable to a notable drop in the percentage of students who smoke on a daily basis—down from 19.1 percent in 1996 to 8.0 percent in 2004.

**Table T4**  
**Frequency of Use of Smoking Tobacco, 1996-2004**

Grade	Alcohol Use Category	Idaho 1996		Idaho 1998		Idaho 2000		Idaho 2002		Idaho 2004		Idaho Change Since First Survey
		%	Margin of Error	%	Margin of Error	%	Margin of Error	%	Margin of Error	%	Margin of Error	
Grade 6	Never	92.0	± 1.4	94.8	± 0.8	97.1	± 1.4	96.8	± 0.7	96.3	± 0.5	+4.3
	Some	6.6	± 1.2	4.3	± 0.6	2.3	± 1.1	2.9	± 0.6	2.9	± 0.4	-3.7
	Monthly	0.7	± 0.2	0.5	± 0.2	0.1	± 0.1	0.2	± 0.2	0.3	± 0.1	-0.4
	Weekly	0.4	± 0.2	0.2	± 0.1	0.3	± 0.4	0.05	± 0.05	0.2	± 0.1	-0.2
	Daily	0.4	± 0.2	0.2	± 0.1	0.3	± 0.2	0.08	± 0.05	0.3	± 0.1	-0.1
Grade 8	Never	71.3	± 2.2	78.8	± 2.4	82.7	± 5.4	87.7	± 2.0	87.8	± 0.7	+16.5
	Some	18.6	± 2.0	14.0	± 1.8	12.7	± 4.0	9.1	± 1.7	8.6	± 0.6	-10.0
	Monthly	3.4	± 0.5	2.1	± 0.6	1.3	± 0.4	0.7	± 0.3	1.2	± 0.3	-2.2
	Weekly	2.8	± 0.8	2.0	± 0.6	1.2	± 0.5	1.0	± 0.3	0.9	± 0.2	-1.9
	Daily	3.9	± 0.8	3.8	± 0.6	2.0	± 0.8	1.6	± 0.5	1.6	± 0.2	-2.3
Grade 10	Never	--	--	59.4	± 5.0	69.1	± 3.0	75.1	± 3.5	76.3	± 1.6	+16.9
	Some	--	--	17.6	± 1.7	16.0	± 1.9	13.5	± 1.8	14.0	± 1.3	-3.6
	Monthly	--	--	3.5	± 0.7	2.5	± 0.6	2.0	± 0.3	2.2	± 0.2	-1.3
	Weekly	--	--	3.8	± 0.7	3.1	± 0.4	1.6	± 0.4	2.6	± 0.4	-1.2
	Daily	--	--	15.7	± 5.6	9.4	± 2.4	7.8	± 2.1	4.9	± 0.3	-10.8
Grade 12	Never	51.9	± 3.6	58.0	± 4.1	56.4	± 5.5	66.4	± 2.2	70.4	± 1.8	+18.5
	Some	21.0	± 1.5	18.4	± 1.8	20.2	± 1.4	17.8	± 1.6	15.8	± 1.1	-5.2
	Monthly	4.3	± 0.7	3.4	± 0.8	3.3	± 0.8	3.5	± 0.6	2.7	± 0.2	-1.6
	Weekly	3.7	± 0.8	3.5	± 0.6	2.9	± 0.4	2.3	± 0.5	3.2	± 0.5	-0.5
	Daily	19.1	± 2.7	16.8	± 3.9	17.2	± 6.0	10.0	± 1.8	8.0	± 0.7	-11.1



Another measure of tobacco use is the percentage of students who reported having smoked during the previous 30 days. This question was asked for the third time on the 2004 survey. Results are depicted in Figure T6 which compares Idaho results to national results for grades eight, ten, and twelve (the only grades for which national data is available).

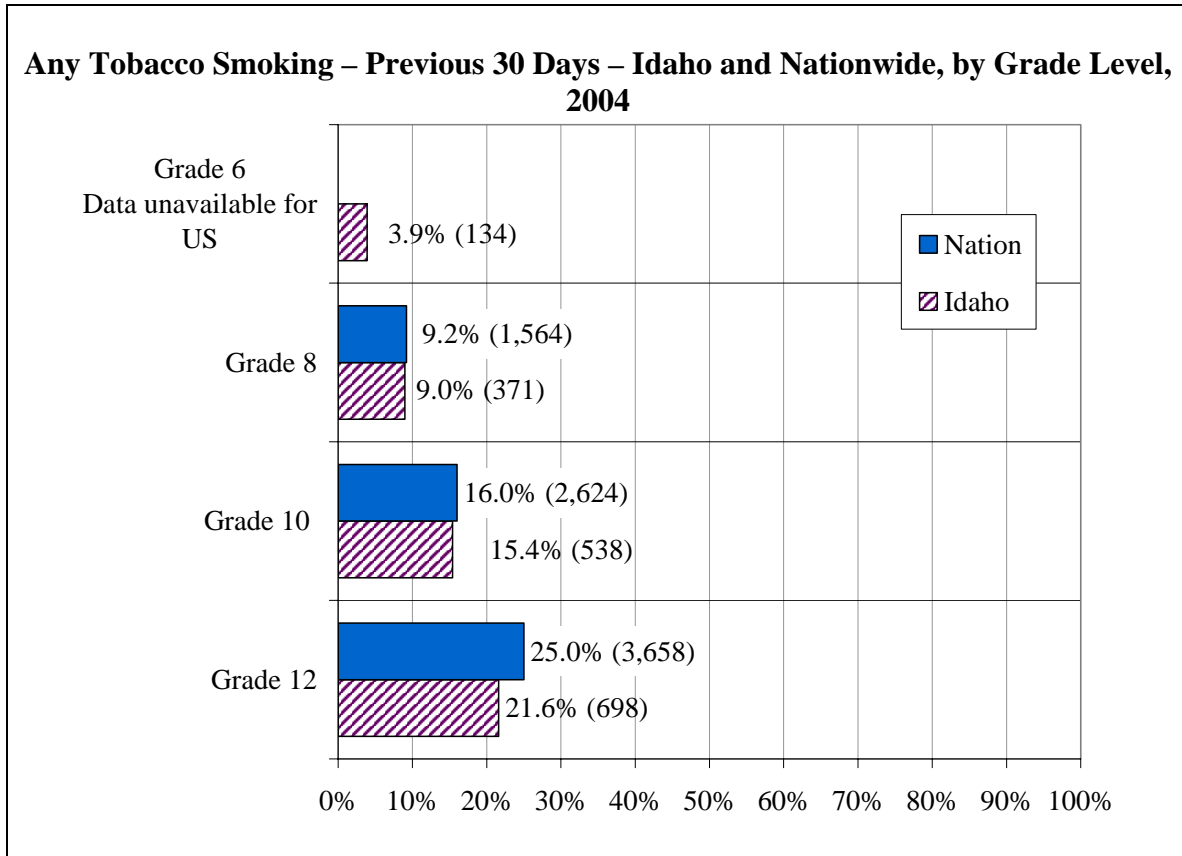


Figure T6

The percentage of students who reported having smoked in the 30 days prior to the survey increased between middle school and high school and continued to increase during the high school years. This was consistent with national patterns, although the percentage of 12th-grade students in Idaho who smoked was still lower than the percentage nationally.

## Age When Started Smoking

Students were asked how old they were when they smoked their first cigarette. Among high school seniors who said they had smoked cigarettes (33.1%), the most common response was age “15 or older” reported by 13.6%. (see Table T5). About 12.4 percent of seniors reported that they had first smoked a cigarette at age 12 or younger.

**Table T5**  
**Age When First Smoked Cigarette, Idaho Seniors, 2004**

	<b>Never Smoked</b>	<b>Age 10 or Younger</b>	<b>Age 11 – 12</b>	<b>Age 13 – 14</b>	<b>Age 15 or Older</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys</b>	65.5%	7.2%	6.2%	7.4%	13.7%
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls</b>	68.5%	4.3%	7.0%	6.9%	13.4%
<b>All Idaho Seniors</b>	<b>66.9%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>

The overall difference between male and female high school seniors who reported having smoked was within the margin of error and therefore not significant. Both girls and boys were more likely to respond that they had first smoked at age 15.

## Source of Cigarettes

Students were also asked, “If you smoke, how do you usually get the cigarettes you smoke?” Most students who smoked reported that they obtained cigarettes “from friends.” Only high school seniors, some of whom were 18 years old, commonly reported that they obtained cigarettes from a store. A smaller proportion of students answered that they got cigarettes from adults, and almost no students (less than one percent) generally obtained cigarettes from vending machines.

These findings are depicted in Figure T7. Students also had the option of responding “I don’t smoke,” and this was the predominant answer chosen at all grade levels (94.9 percent of sixth-grade students, 88.6 percent of eighth-grade students, 80.9 percent of 10th-grade students, and 74.9 percent of 12th-grade students). Only the answers of those who *did* smoke were included in the bar graph in Figure T7.

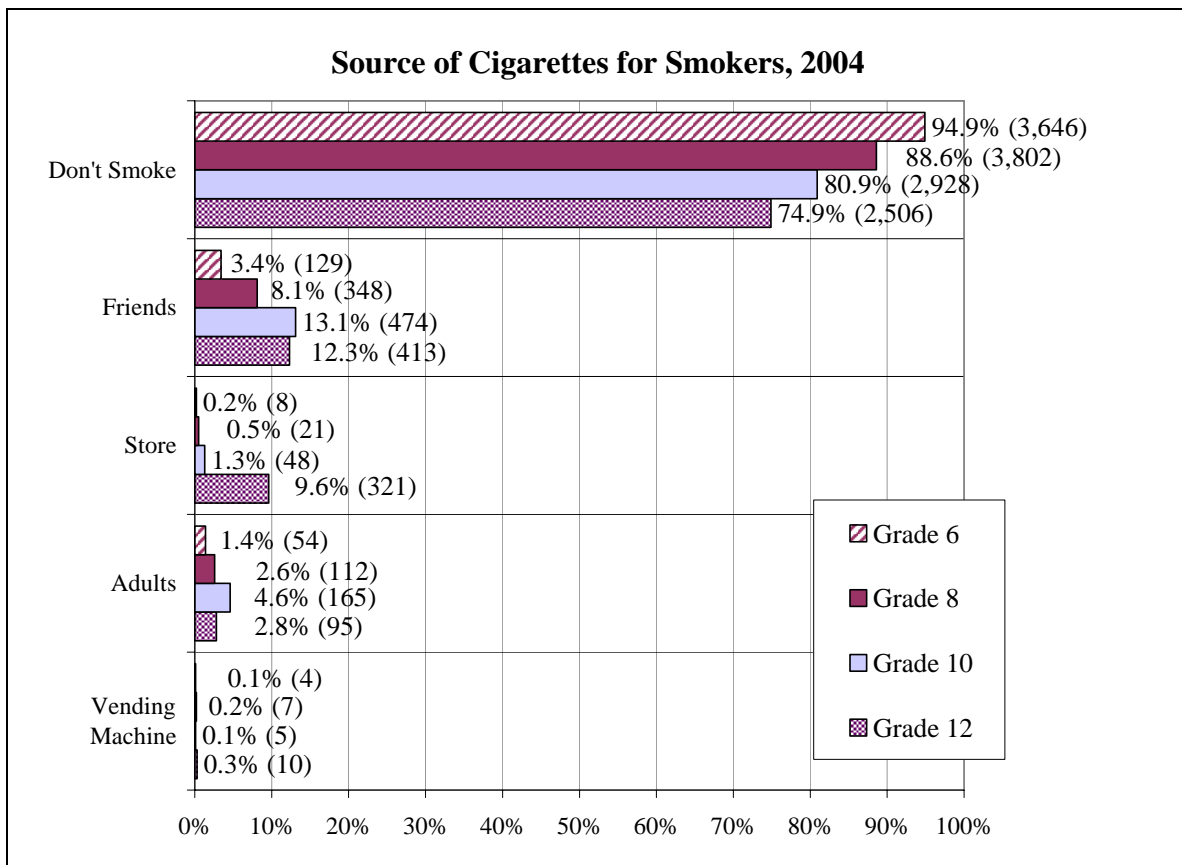


Figure T7

## Perceived Risk of Harm from Smoking

Students were asked about their perceptions of potential harm from high consumption of smoking tobacco (“How much do you think people risk harming themselves if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day?”).

Student responses are presented in Figure T8. Across all grade levels, students were most likely to respond that this behavior posed a “great risk.” In any given grade, less than 6 percent of students answered that smoking a pack of cigarettes a day posed “no risk.”

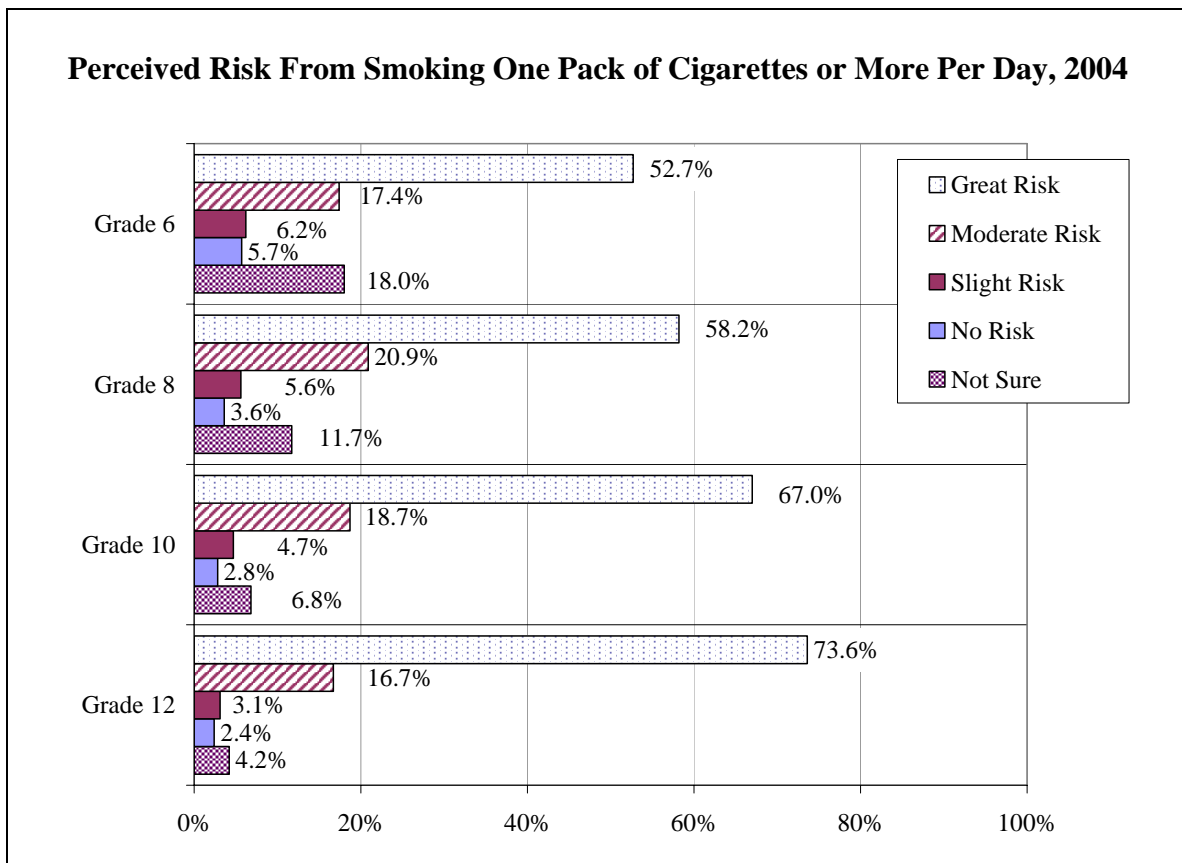


Figure T8

Just as girls had seen binge drinking as riskier than boys had, in every grade surveyed, girls were more likely than boys to indicate that people ran “great risk” of harming themselves if they smoked a pack or more of cigarettes each day (Figure T9).

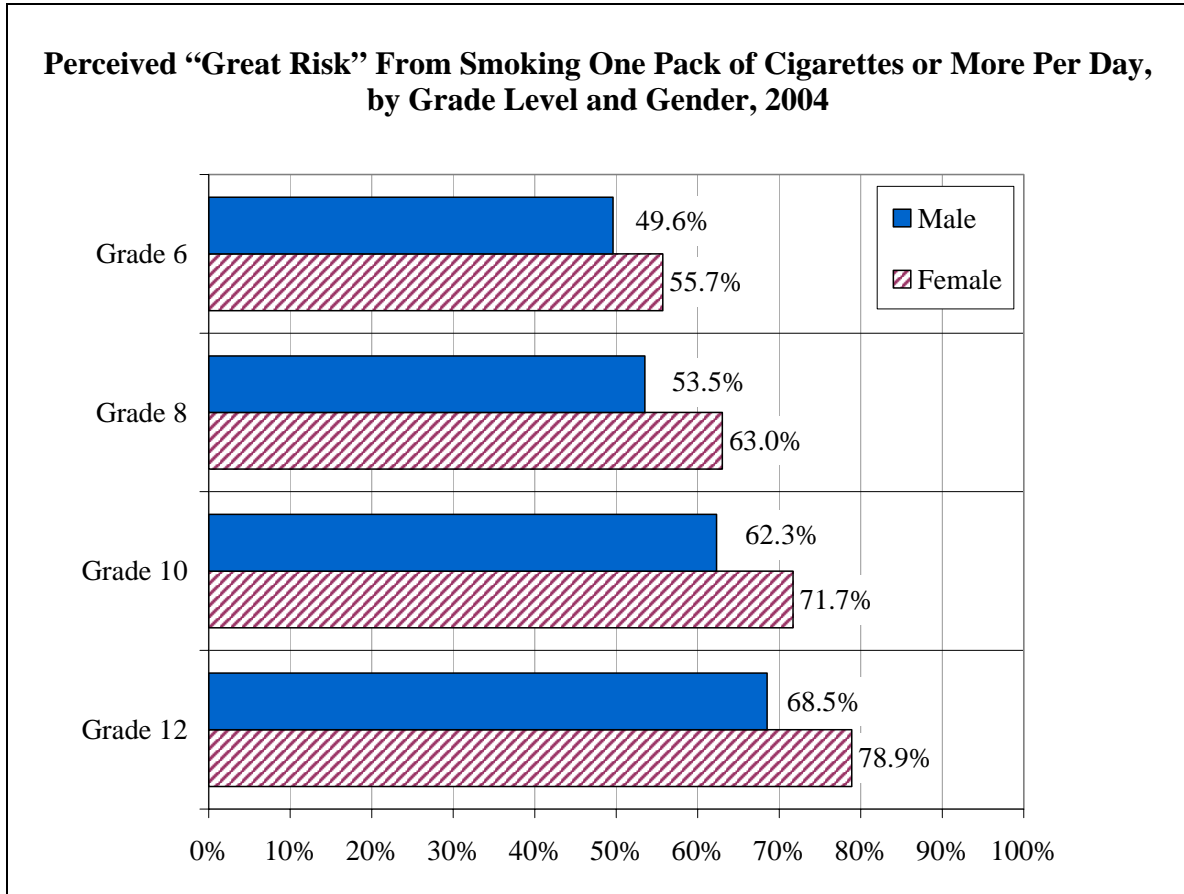


Figure T9

Figure T10 compares the responses of Idaho students in eighth, 10th, and 12th grades who said that smoking a pack a day posed a “great risk” to responses of students in the *Monitoring the Future* national study. *While the responses of 10th- and 12th-grade students were similar to those of the national study, Idaho students in the eighth grade were somewhat less likely than were students nationwide to respond that people put themselves at “great risk” of harm by smoking a pack of cigarettes every day.*

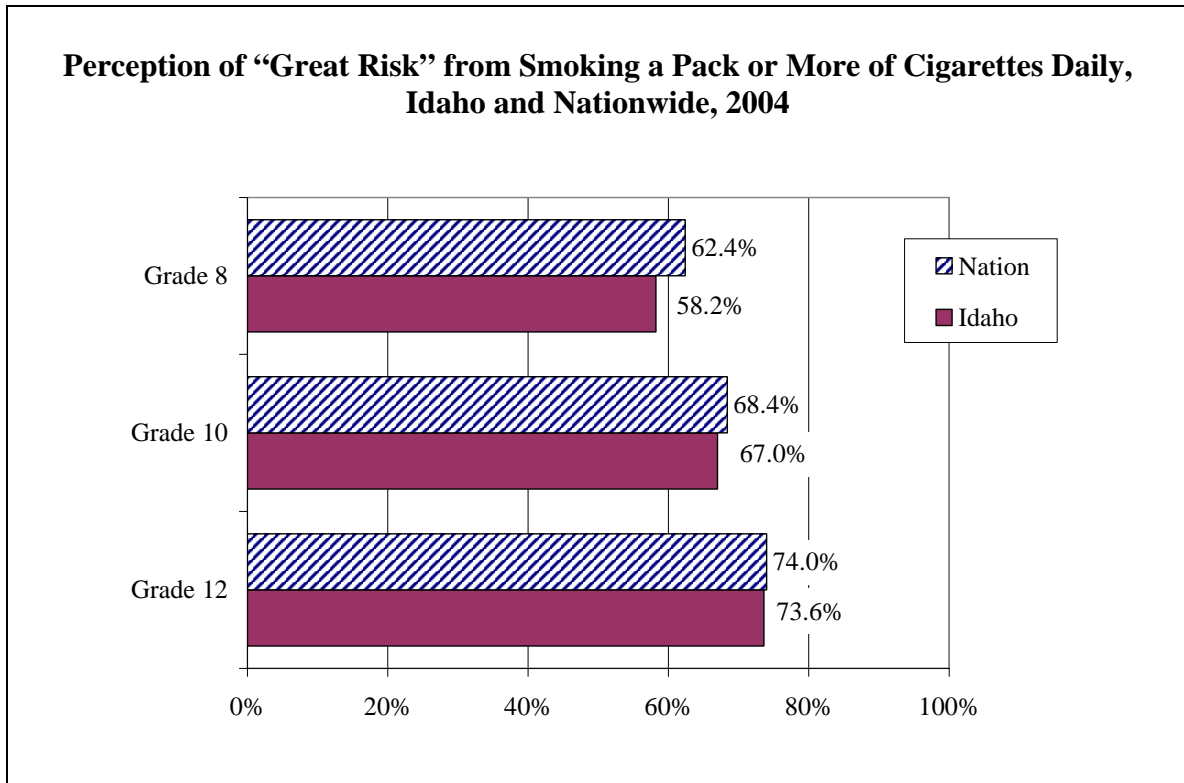


Figure T10